Union Territories are not covered under the Schemes of CRF/NCCF, as Finance Commission's mandata concerned with the sharing of revenue between the Centre and the States. Relief assistance to the UTs is provided from Budget provision of the Ministry of Home Affairs, after following the laid down procedure.

Three-pronged approach to tackle Naxalism

564. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inter Ministerial Group on Naxalism under the Chairmanship of Home Minister held a meeting to discuss steps to strengthen security to meet the state of naxal attacks in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and other States;

(b) whether the security forces have suggested a three-pronged approach going after prominent leaders to break the Naxalite network, taking control of specific 132 areas which are their stronghold and speeding up development work in areas where security already have strong presence;

(c) if so, to what extent these steps have helped in meeting the anti-naxalites threat; and

(d) the steps proposed to monitor such areas regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Central Government accords a very high priority to review and monitor the naxal situation and the measures being taken by the States both on security and development fronts to control it. Union Home Minister reviews naxal situation periodically. Several monitoring and review mechanisms under Union Home Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Union Home Secretary, Special Secretary (Internal Security) and Special Secretary (Naxal Management) are in place.

Persons died/killed in police custody

565. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 7468 persons have died or been killed in police custody during 2002-07;

(b) if so, whether large number of these deaths were due to torture as opined by Asian Centre for Human Rights;

(c) whether any police personnel were identified who were responsible for these "alleged torture deaths"; and

(d) how many such police personnel were punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) As per the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to all State Governments/Union Territories, all cases of custodial deaths are required to be reported to the NHRC within 24 hours of its occurrence alongwith the relevant reports *viz.* Inquest Reports, Magisterial Inquiry Reports, Post-Mortem Reports.

During the period 2002-2003 to 2007-2008, the NHRC has received a total number of 926 intimations about deaths in police custody. In 70 proven cases of violation of human rights, the NHRC either recommended interim relief/compensation or disciplinary action or prosecution of public servant or both during the period 2002-2003 to 2007-2008.

Loss of life and property due to floods

†566.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been huge loss of life and property and livestock due to floods in various parts of the country;

(b) whether Government has made any assessment about the loss incurred to various States due to floods;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of financial assistance given by Government to various States for the help of flood victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) As per the information received from the State Governments, based on their preliminary assessment, 2858 human lives lost, 23521 cattle lost, 27,676 lakh ha. cropped area, 16,30,218 houses have been reported damage due to heavy rains/ floods/ landslides during southwest monsoon 2008. The Figures showing the details of loss of human lives, livestock and agriculture cropped areas affected due to heavy rain/ floods/ landslide in the States/ UT are given as statement-I. (Refer to the statement appended to the answer to USQ 549 Part (a))

(b) and (c) As per the existing procedure, State Government concerned is required to submit a memorandum indicating sector-wise details of damage caused by the natural calamity and requirement of funds for relief operations by the State Government. On receipt of a Memorandum from the State, an Inter Ministerial Central Team is constituted for an on the spot assessment of the situation and requirement of funds for the relief operations. The report of the Central Team is considered by an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) headed by Home Secretary. The High Level Committee headed by Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister considers the request of the State Government based on the report of the Central Team, recommendations of the IMG thereon and extant items and norms of assistance and approves the quantum of assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Karnataka have, so far, submitted memoranda seeking additional Central assistance from NCCF for relief operations in the areas affected by the floods, heavy rains etc. during Southwest Monsoon, 2008. The Central Teams have visited these States. The report of the Central Teams will be processed as per the procedure as stated above. Ad hoc releases from NCCF of Rs, 1000.00 crore to Bihar, Rs. 300.00 to Assam and Rs. 98.87 core to Orissa have been made for management of heavy rains/floods etc. during Southwest monsoon-2008.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi